

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 05197 170734Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PC-04 AID-20 FBO-01

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 M-03 OC-06

OPR-02 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-10 SCS-03 MC-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /151 W

----- 103630

O 170640Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4201

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: EXEMPT

TAGS: PINS, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP - SITREP 3

REF: A) KABUL 5193; B) KABUL 5194; C) KABUL 5188

1. MISSION PERSONNEL TOURING KABUL STREETS BETWEEN 0800 AND 1000 HOURS LOCAL REPORT SITUATION RELATIVELY STABLE, REFLECTING APPARENTLY FULLY SUCCESSFUL MILITARY TAKEOVER. MILITARY ATTACHE AND DEA REPS REPORT RELATIVE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ABOUT KABUL. IN VIOLATION OF ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC GATHERINGS, LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS NEAR DEMAZANG PRISON ARE MINGLING WITH TROOPS JUBILANTLY SHAKING HANDS WITH SOME TROOPS FIRING OFF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN AIR IN CELEBRATION.

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PAGE 02 KABUL 05197 170734Z

2. NUMBER OF MILITARY UNITS IN KABUL REMAINS RELATIVELY

SMALL, INDICATING THAT BULK OF MILITARY (PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT) BEING HELD IN BARRACKS AND CANTONMENTS. RANKS OF OFFICERS VISIBLE ON STREETS ALMOST ENTIRELY BELOW FIELD GRADE. PRIMARY ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN DIRECTING COUP ARE 15TH ARMORED DIVISION (BASED IN PULE CHARKI) AND PARATROOPER BATTALION. 444TH SPECIAL FORCES (ABDUL WALI'S ELITE TROOPS) ARE GARRISONED IN BALA HISSAR FORT. THERE IS A RUMOR THAT SARDAR ABDUL WALI HAS BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED.

3. AFTER INITIAL FLYOVER OF TWO MIG 21'S ABOUT 0600, NO FURTHER SIGN OF AIR FORCE AND NO SIGN OF AIR CHIEF OF STAFF GULBAHAR.

4. PRINCE DAUD PERSONALLY CAME ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN AGAIN AT APPROXIMATELY 0840 REPEATING PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL A). DAUD ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN POLICY OF AFGHANISTAN (I.E., NON-ALIGNMENT, FRIENDSHIP TO ALL NATIONS, ETC.) REMAINS UNCHANGED. HE REFERRED BRIEFLY TO TROUBLES WITH PAKISTAN BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE SETTLED.

5. DCM STOPPED AT MFA WHOSE PERSONNEL ALL IN STATE OF SHOCK. SPOKE WITH ACTING DEPFONMIN WAHED KARIM WHO SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO REPORT, SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO AMBASSADOR NEUMANN AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS LATER IN DAY.

6. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH BABAR, CHARGE' PAK EMBASSY, WHO REPORTED HE KNEW VERY LITTLE AND THAT HE HAD AS YET NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISLAMABAD. BABAR SAID TWO KEY ELEMENTS TO WATCH NOW WOULD BE THE TRIBES (FROM WHOM HE FELT DAUD HAD SOLID BACKING) AND MILITARY UNITS OUTSIDE KABUL.

7. ALL AMERICANS SO FAR REPORTED SAFE AND CALM. ASIA FOUNDATION REP. GLEN BOWERSOX, REPORTED SEVERAL SPENT ROUNDS SMALL ARMS FIRE ENTERED HIS COMPOUND FROM DIRECTION GENERAL ROKAI SULEIMAN OR CROWN PRINCE'S HOME ADJOINING ABOUT 0300. FOR NEA/PAB, PLEASE NOTIFY ASIA FOUNDATION OFFICE THAT BOWERSOX AND STAFF ARE WELL. NEUMANN

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